

DRAFT CSCL

18 August 1965

cc to I&NS

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

SUBJECT: Alfredo LAUNAGS aka Freds LAUNAGS
Mentally Unstable US Citizen of Latvian
Origin

1. Alfredo LAUNAGS was born on [redacted] in [redacted] Latvia. He remained in his native country during the first Soviet occupation (1940-1941), during the German occupation (1941-1945) and during the initial period of the Soviet occupation following the end of WW II. He claims to have been ideologically opposed to the first Soviet regime and to have engaged in minor, inconsequential anti-Soviet acts. For a short period of time during the succeeding German occupation, he claims to have done some clerical work, indirectly for the Nazi security element (SD) in Riga. This work lasted a very short time because his boss fell out of favor with the Nazi regime and was arrested. LAUNAGS was also arrested but was released after a short time of incarceration. When the Soviets returned to Latvia and occupied the country after the defeat of the Germans, LAUNAGS claims to have remained there hiding in the wood of the Kurame area. He says that he eventually made contact with anti-Soviet partisan elements and that they prevailed upon him to leave Latvia clandestinely, by boat, in order to seek material assistance from western governments. He left Latvia [redacted] and arrived in Sweden where he attempted to establish contact with the intelligence services of various western countries. In [redacted] he was reunited with his wife whom he had married in Latvia in [redacted].

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and whom he had not seen since when she fled to Germany along with retreating Wehrmacht elements.

2. LAUNAGS made his first contact with representatives of this Agency in in Sweden. Because of his extensive background knowledge of his native country and its people, our representatives expressed an interest in employing him in Germany on a contract basis. As a result, he and his family travelled from Sweden to Germany in . They remained there until , when they applied for immigration to the United States and entered this country as regular immigrants in .

In LAUNAGS was naturalized as US citizen.

3. LAUNAGS' contractual agreement with this Agency continued until when his unique qualifications ceased to be of further advantage to the US Government and the contractual agreement with him was therefore dissolved, per existing specifications embodied in the contract. Among other termination benefits, he was given vocational training and he was aided in obtaining commercial employment. In the course of residence in the United States, Mrs. LAUNAGS ^{had been} was able to complete the necessary studies and examinations in order to resume her career in dentistry which she had begun in Europe. Upon leaving the Washington, D.C. area in , the LAUNAGS settled in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area.

4. From all indications received by this Agency during the past 9 months, Alfred's LAUNAGS personal situation began to deteriorate sometime after he had moved to Lancaster. He was unable to hold his job and lost a number of others in succession. He began to suffer from a persecution complex and to have difficulties with his wife. His marital relations

became progressively worse and his wife initiated divorce action in the end of 1964. As a result of the necessary legal separation, he moved to New York City. Complicating his situation is the fact that his teenage son has exhibited mental instability and has periodically been confined in a mental institution. In New York City LAUNAGS held several jobs, but lost them because of irrational behavior. Not being employed any longer, he ^{at present} survives on unemployment payments and reportedly ^{now} has no fixed abode, ~~at the present time~~.

5. According to his own statements, LAUNAGS has written several letters to the President of the United States and also to the Soviet mission at the UN. On one occasion he claims that he delivered the letter in person to the Soviet offices at the UN. One of the reasons for writing -- and probably the main reason -- is his expressed desire to return to his native Latvia. As far as this Agency has been able to determine, LAUNAGS has not taken any concrete steps toward repatriation to date, other than writing letters in which he has made generalized mention of such a possible desire.

6. On LAUNAGS paid an unexpected weekend visit to a Latvian summer camp in Connecticut. He remained overnight and became involved in an argument with another man whom he accused of having occupied his bunk. LAUNAGS reportedly became violent, attacked the man and attempted to choke him. Although this created a nocturnal disturbance, the police were not notified because the leaders of the camp did not wish to expose the Latvian camp to adverse publicity.

7. In view of the above-outlined history of LAUNAGS' irrational behavior and mental instability, and particularly in light of his recent

attempted act of violence, he should be classified as a potential threat to the President of the United States and to other US officials. Therefore, a name should be ~~maintained~~ recorded in the necessary listings and other necessary security measures instituted, as appropriate.